Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled)

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup device for forming a digital image signal;

a color ~~characteristic~~ space information memory that stores color ~~characteristic~~ space information;

a color bit number converting part arranged to convert color bit number of said digital image signal in response to an external signal from an external apparatus;

a device recognition attribute information memory for storing device recognition attribute information; and

an interface part arranged to communicate with the external apparatus,

wherein said interface part sends said device recognition attribute information to said external apparatus,

then said interface part receives said external signal with which the color bit number of said digital image signal is controlled using said color ~~characteristic~~ space information according to a result of recognition by said external apparatus.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said color bit number converting part converts color space according to the external signal.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said external apparatus comprises a PC.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said image pickup apparatus is directly connectable with said PC.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): An image pickup method, comprising:

picking up of an image to form a digital image signal;

converting color bit number of said digital image signal in response to an external signal from an external apparatus;

storing device recognition attribute information in a device recognition attribute information memory;

storing a color ~~characteristic~~ space information in a ~~stores~~ color ~~characteristic~~ space information memory;

sending said device recognition attribute information to said external apparatus through an interface part; and

receiving said external signal with which the color bit number of said digital image signal is controlled using said color ~~characteristic~~ space information according to a result of recognition by said external apparatus.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): An image pickup method according to claim 33, wherein said converting includes converting color space according to the external signal.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): An image signal processing apparatus electrically connectable to an image pickup device that forms a digital image signal,

wherein said image pickup apparatus comprises a color bit number converting part arranged to convert color bit number of said digital image signal in response to an external signal,

a device recognition attribute information memory for storing device recognition attribute information,

a color ~~characteristic~~ space information memory that stores color ~~characteristic~~ space information, and

an interface part arranged to send said device recognition attribute information to said image signal processing apparatus and receive said external signal with which the color bit number of said digital image signal is controlled using said color ~~characteristic~~ space information according to a result of recognition by said external apparatus, comprising:

a communication part arranged to receive said device recognition attribute information from said image pickup apparatus to recognize said image pickup apparatus;

a recognizing part arranged to recognize the image pickup apparatus in response to said device recognition attribute information; and

a control part arranged to send the external signal to said image pickup apparatus through said communication part to control the color bit number of said digital image signal according to a result of recognition by said recognizing part.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): An image signal processing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said color bit number converting part converts color space according to the external signal.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): An image signal processing method for processing a digital image signal received from an image pickup device that forms a digital image signal, wherein said image pickup apparatus comprises:

a color bit number converting part arranged to convert color bit number of said digital image signal in response to an external signal,

a device recognition attribute information memory for storing device recognition attribute information,

a color ~~characteristic~~ space information memory that stores color ~~characteristic~~ space information, and

an interface part arranged to send said device recognition attribute information to said image signal processing apparatus and receive said external signal with which the color bit number of said digital image signal is controlled using said color ~~characteristic~~ space information according to a result of recognition by said external apparatus, comprising:

receiving said device recognition attribute information from said image pickup apparatus;

recognizing the image pickup apparatus in response to said device recognition attribute information; and

sending the external signal to said image pickup apparatus to control the color bit number of said digital image signal according to a result of the recognizing.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): An image signal processing method according to claim 37, wherein external signal controls the color space of said digital image signal according to the result of the recognizing.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

said color ~~characteristic~~ space information memory stores a plurality of kinds of color ~~characteristic~~ space information, and

said color bit number converting part converts the color bit number of said digital image signal using a selected color ~~characteristic~~ space information, and further comprising:

a selecting part that selects color ~~characteristic~~ space information among the plurality of kinds of color ~~characteristic~~ space information in response to an external signal from an external apparatus.

K1

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): An image pickup method according to claim 33, further comprising:

storing a plurality of kinds of color ~~characteristic~~ space information in said stores color ~~characteristic~~ space information memory;

selecting color ~~characteristic~~ space information among the plurality of color ~~characteristic~~ space information in response to an external signal from an external apparatus; and

converting color bit number of said digital image signal using the selected color ~~characteristic~~ space information

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): An image signal processing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein

said color ~~characteristic~~ space information memory stores a plurality of kinds of color ~~characteristic~~ space information, and

an interface part arranged to send said device recognition attribute information to said image signal processing apparatus and receive said external signal with which the color bit

number of said digital image signal is controlled using a selected color ~~characteristic~~ space information according to a result of recognition by said external apparatus, and further comprising

a selecting part that selects color ~~characteristic~~ space information among the plurality of color ~~characteristic~~ space information in response to said device recognition attribute information.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): An image signal processing method according to claim 37, wherein

said interface part arranged to send said device recognition attribute information to said image signal processing apparatus and receive said external signal with which the color bit number of said digital image signal is controlled using a selected color ~~characteristic~~ space information according to a result of recognition by said external apparatus,

said image pickup apparatus further comprising:

a color ~~characteristic~~ space information memory that stores a plurality of kinds of color ~~characteristic~~ space information, and

a selecting part that selects color ~~characteristic~~ space information among the plurality of color ~~characteristic~~ space information in response to said device recognition attribute information.

Claim 43 (New): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image sensor that converts an optical image into an image signal;

a color bit number converting circuit that converts color bit number according to a conversion memory; and

an interface that receives an external instruction to change the color bit number.

Claim 44 (New): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said memory includes a lookup table.

Claim 45 (New): An image pickup method comprising:

image sensing by converting an optical image into an image signal;

color bit number converting for converting color bit number according to an output of a conversion memory; and

interfacing for receiving an external instruction to change the color bit number.

Claim 46 (New): An image pickup method according to claim 45, wherein the memory includes a lookup table.